

Announcement

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Subject:

PRINCETON GAMMA-TECH TO PAY \$21.5 MILLION FOR
CLEANUPS IN
SOMERSET COUNTY

Category:

Press Release

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**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 2**

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PRINCETON GAMMA-TECH TO PAY \$21.5 MILLION FOR CLEANUPS IN SOMERSET COUNTY

FOR RELEASE: Thursday, February 12, 2004

(#04022) NEW YORK, N.Y. -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the United States Department of Justice, and the state of New Jersey today announced a major settlement that will provide for the cleanup at two Superfund sites in Somerset County, New Jersey. In a settlement with Princeton Gamma-Tech Inc., EPA and the state of New Jersey will receive \$21.5 million for past and future cleanups at the Montgomery Township Housing Development and the Rocky Hill Municipal Well Superfund sites.

"This settlement is very good news for Montgomery Township and Rocky Hill Borough residents," said EPA Regional Administrator Jane M. Kenny. "We continue our resolve to pursue those who contaminate our environment -- they should pay for their past actions. This settlement benefits taxpayers and the residents in the neighborhoods that need to be cleaned up."

Under the umbrella settlement, EPA will receive \$14,204,000 to be split between the Montgomery Township Housing Development and Rocky Hill Municipal Well sites to fund future long-term cleanup work at the sites. New Jersey, which is also a party to the settlement, will receive \$7,296,000 to reimburse its past and futures costs at these sites.

"Industries and individuals who seek to pollute our lands and waterways will be held responsible for their actions," said Tom Sansonetti, Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "Today's settlement strongly reflects the policy of this administration and more importantly, is in the best interests of our environment and the general public."

The 72-acre Montgomery Township Housing Development site and the adjacent 2-acre Rocky Hill Municipal Well site are located in the southern part of the county. Because they are near one another and are both primarily contaminated by trichloroethylene (TCE)

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in the ground water, they are being addressed together. More than 70 affected residences in the Montgomery housing development were connected to municipal water because private well water was contaminated. EPA's cleanup plan for the sites includes extracting and treating contaminated ground water at the site. In addition, the Agency will seal private wells within the contaminant plume. EPA will begin building the ground water treatment plant at the sites this spring.

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